

Dear SIC Members and Supporters:

This issue of *SIC Clips & Quips* (Volume 5, Issue 9) is sent to call attention to information of special interest to School Improvement Councils, their members, and other stakeholders.

State House Update – The Senate Finance Committee last week finalized its \$6 billion state budget proposal for fiscal year 2013-14 (**H.3710**). The Finance Committee's proposal for Education Finance Act (EFA) base student cost (BSC) funding is the same as that adopted earlier this session by the House of Representatives, setting the BSC at \$2,101 per year (up from last year's \$2,012 but still short of the statutorily mandated amount of \$2,771). Also included in the Senate Finance Committee's budget recommendation was the creation and funding of the Center for Educational Partnerships (CEP) within the College of Education at the University of South Carolina. The CEP will roll up all Education Improvement Act (EIA) funds allocated to the programs under its purview (including SC-SIC). The Finance Committee's plan would also include \$22 million for the expansion of the state's four-year old kindergarten program for at-risk children (with additional funding provided through a proposed bill **S.134**), and \$1.5 million in General Fund dollars for summer reading camps as part of the proposed Read to Succeed bill (**S.516**). The Finance Committee proposal will be debated by the full Senate beginning the week of May 13.

On May 8, the Senate Education Committee reported out favorably (with amendment) **S.134**, which would phase in further expansion of the 4K program statewide at a cost of up to \$87 million. Additionally, the Senate Education Committee reported out favorably (with amendment) the Read to Succeed bill, **S.516**. This bill would require the SC Department of Education to create a State Reading Proficiency Plan by 2014, with accompanying reading plans created by each school district, to include intensive in-class intervention and summer reading camps for students identified by the third grade as not reading on grade level. Beginning in 2017-18, students may be held back (unless exempted) in the third grade if they are not reading at grade level. Both **S.134** and **S.516** will move on to the full Senate for debate and consideration.

You are encouraged to visit www.statehouse.gov to learn more about bills in which you may be interested. While there you can visit the "Citizen's Interest" page and sign to receive email alerts about specific bills and committee meetings that you wish to monitor. The SC-SIC staff is always willing to help you learn how to be an active participant in education policy issues. Please contact us if your district would like to schedule advocacy training for School Improvement Council members.

SC-EPFP Now Accepting Applications for 2013-14 – The SC Education Policy Fellowship Program (SC-EPFP) – a 10-month professional development program for established and emerging leaders in education and related fields designed to work toward the implementation of sound education policy and practice in South Carolina – is now accepting applications **through July 15, 2013** for the 2013-14 academic year. SC-EPFP operates under the auspices of the national Education Policy Fellowship Program (<http://epfp.iel.org>) of the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, DC, which oversees Fellowship programs in 12 states and the District of Columbia. In South Carolina the program is coordinated by the SC School Improvement Council, located in the University of South Carolina's College of Education, with the assistance of the SC Department of Education's Office of Leader Effectiveness. SC-EPFP meets monthly September through June (primarily in Columbia) for a full day of dialogues, interactive exercises, small group projects, book discussions, and more. An overnight Leadership Forum is scheduled in the Fall and a four-day Washington Policy Seminar hosted by the Institute for Educational Leadership is held in the nation's capital in April. Educators may qualify for recertification or certificate renewal credits, and graduate credits may also be available. For more on the SC Education Policy Fellowship Program, including additional program information, application materials and tuition costs, visit the SC-EPFP page online at <http://sic.sc.gov/sceducationpolicyfellowshipprogram/Pages/index.aspx>.

SC-SIC Board of Trustees Seeks Nominations – The SC School Improvement Council Board of Trustees is a body composed of up to 21 individuals from every region of South Carolina which serves in an advisory capacity to the SC-SIC office and staff. Board members are elected to three-year terms; vacancies for unexpired terms are appointed by the Board Chair. The Board will be conducting its annual

elections in July for the Class of 2016, and seeks individuals willing to serve and assist the work of SC-SIC statewide. Current members of the Board represent a variety of personal and professional backgrounds (parents, educators, current SIC members, school board members, former legislators, and more), and the Board strives to maintain its diversity. This year, the Board is particularly looking for representatives from the Upstate (Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union) and the CSRA (Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Edgefield, Hampton, Saluda) regions. If you know someone who has a demonstrated commitment to public education in their particular sphere of influence, or if you yourself are interested in serving on the SC-SIC Board, nominate that person or self-nominate for consideration for Board membership. Send a resume and letter of interest to SC-SIC Associate Director Tom F. Hudson at hudsonf@mailbox.sc.edu, **before June 15, 2013**. More information on the SC-SIC Board of Trustees can be found on at <http://sic.sc.gov>.

Remember, *SIC Clips & Quips* is sent to all SIC members and supporters who share their email addresses with us. Please feel free to print out and share this information with fellow SIC members who may not have received it. We are here to help you, so please contact us any time!

Tom

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"Civic Engagement in Public Education"

